

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing First Preliminary Amendment prior to examination of this application is respectfully requested.

This present application is a continuation of co-pending U.S. Application No. 10/042,609, filed on January 9, 2002. Applicant has received a Notice of Allowance for the parent application from the Patent Office mailed April 9, 2003.

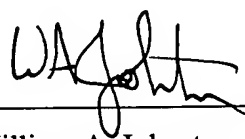
Several paragraphs have been added to the specification that are either directed to priority, or further define the present invention. Claims 1 and 9 have been amended. New claims 10 and 11 have been added. Consequently, claims 1-11 are now pending. Support for this amendment is included in claims 1 and 9 as filed in the parent application.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention of claims 1-11 is patentable. Therefore, it is believed that all pending claims of this application are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, an early Notice of Allowance for all pending claims of this application is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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